

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint comprising:

- an outer member having a spherical inner surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;
- an inner member having a spherical outer surface with a plurality of track grooves formed therein;
- a plurality of balls each arranged in a wedge-shaped ball track formed by the track groove of the outer member and the track groove of the inner member; and
- a retainer arranged between the spherical inner surface of the outer member and spherical outer surface of the inner member and adapted to retain the balls,

wherein the outer member is formed in a multi-layer structure of three or more layers formed of an outside member, one or a plurality of intermediate members, and an inside member, and

wherein at least one of the intermediate members is formed of an elastic material.

Claim 2 (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1, wherein the outside member and the inside member are provided with engagement portions for effecting torque transmission.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 1-~~or~~ 2, further comprising a fixing means for fit-engaging the inside member with the outside member through the intermediate member to integrally fix together the outside member, the intermediate member, and the inside member.

Claim 4 (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the fixing means is equipped with a cylinder portion to be fitted onto an outer side of an opening end portion of the outside member, and a lock portion extending radially inwards from an end portion of the cylinder portion to be locked to an end portion of the inside member.

Claim 5 (Original) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the fixing means is a caulked portion formed through radially inward plastic deformation of an end portion of the outside member to effect locking to an end portion of the inside member.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

Claim 8 New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 2, further comprising a fixing means for fit-engaging the inside member with the outside member through the intermediate member to integrally fix together the outside member, the intermediate member, and the inside member.

Claim 9 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 8, wherein the fixing means is equipped with a cylinder portion to be fitted onto an outer side of an opening end portion of the outside member, and a lock portion extending radially inwards from an end portion of the cylinder portion to be locked to an end portion of the inside member.

Claim 10 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 8, wherein the fixing means is a caulked portion formed through radially inward plastic deformation of an end portion of the outside member to effect locking to an end portion of the inside member.

Claim 11 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 2, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 12 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 13 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 8, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 14 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 4, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 15 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 9, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 16 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 5, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 17 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 10, wherein the elastic material comprises a rubber material.

Claim 18 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 2, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

Claim 19 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 3, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.

Claim 20 (New) A fixed type constant velocity universal joint according to Claim 8, wherein the fixed type constant velocity universal joint is used in a steering device arranged between a steering wheel and a steering gear of a vehicle.